

## THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

77TH STREET AND CENTRAL PARK WEST

NEW YORK CITY

## DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

CLARK WISSLER, Ph.D., CURATOR-IN-CHIEF  
 N. C. NELSON, M.L., CURATOR OF PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY  
 G. C. VAILLANT, Ph.D., ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF MEXICAN ARCHAEOLOGY  
 H. L. SHAPIRO, Ph.D., ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY  
 MARGARET MEAD, ASSISTANT CURATOR OF ETHNOLOGY  
 WENDELL C. BENNETT, Ph.D., ASSISTANT CURATOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
 WILLIAM K. GREGORY, Ph.D., ASSOCIATE IN PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY  
 CLARENCE L. HAY, A.M., RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN MEXICAN AND  
 CENTRAL AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY  
 MILO HELLMAN, D.D.S., RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY  
 GEORGE E. BREWER, M.D., LL.D., RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN SOMATIC  
 ANTHROPOLOGY  
 RONALD L. OLSON, Ph.D., RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN PERUVIAN ARCHAEOLOGY  
 W. W. HOWELL, M.A., ASSOCIATE IN PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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 wrapped Diaploca  
 in a c/c 3/20/34  
 for 1844-1845  
 March 22 1934*

March 15, 1934.

Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Department of Anthropology, I beg to acknowledge receipt of a copy of four pages of typed notes transmitted to us by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, entitled, "Reported Archaeological Discoveries in Italian Libya," and signed by Howard F. Withey, the American Consul at Naples, under date Feb. 15, 1934.

While not very specific, the information contained appears to agree in all essentials with what is already known about Paleolithic art ranging over a large part of northern Africa. This type of art, incidentally, is closely related to that found in the past twenty-five years in eastern and southeastern Spain, but different from that of Southern France and Central Europe.

The information will be duly filed with our African records and in the meanwhile allow me to thank you for your kindness in forwarding the same.

Sincerely yours,

*N. C. Nelson.*

Curator of Prehistoric Archaeology.

Commercial Department,  
 Department of State, U.S.A.,  
 Washington, D.C.

8650.927/1

GC

MAR 22 1934

March 22 1934

To the American Consul General,  
Naples, Italy.

The Secretary of State refers to the Consulate General's report dated February 15, 1934, entitled REPORTED ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN ITALIAN LIBYA, and transmits, for the Consul General's information, a copy of a letter dated March 15, 1934 from The American Museum of Natural History, New York, with respect to the report.

8650.927/1

Enclosure:

From The American Museum  
of Natural History, dated  
March 15, 1934.

*gmk.*  
A-C/C:CHK:VTS.

*gmk*

Mar. 20. 1934 PM

March 20, 1934.

A true copy of  
the original  
sent.

*gmk*

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

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SEE ~~865c.00/21~~ FOR ~~4628~~

FROM Italy ( Phillips ) DATED Nov. 3, 1937  
TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

(Enclosing report of October 8, 1937 from Mr. Jay Walker, Cairo.)

REGARDING: Excavation work at Sabratha, Leptis Magna and Cirene --Libya  
Review of the --.

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For a number of years, large sums of Government funds have been appropriated for excavation work at Sabratha, Leptis Magna, and Cirene -- present sites of ancient cities which were long ago destroyed by earthquakes and sand storms. Native crews of from two to four hundred men under direction of Italian officials are continuously employed at each site. Some of the more important ancient buildings excavated from under about fifteen feet of sand are being partly reconstructed for modern use in connection with the presentation of Roman plays as an attraction to tourist trade in the future.

Water supply for agricultural purposes has been one of the most important problems in Libya. Most of the oases have an underground water supply tapped by suitable wells which have furnished water for centuries. However, during years of drought and absence of rainfall, crops of barley, fruit, and vegetables in the oases are meager. This may be accounted for by the sandy soil both inside and outside the oases, and the disastrous effects of sand storms blowing from outlying desert regions.

Central File: Decimal File 865C.927, Internal Affairs Of States, Science. Philosophy., Libya, Anthropology. Ethnology. Ethnography. Archaeology., March 15, 1934 - November 3, 1937. March 15, 1934 - November 3, 1937. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/FSC5109726913/FGDSC?u=3Domni&sid=3Dbookmark-GDSC](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/FSC5109726913/FGDSC?u=3Domni&sid=3Dbookmark-GDSC). Accessed 18 June 2025.